

**What is claimed is:** ~~Patent Claims:~~

1           1(currently amended).       Sanitary fitting, with  
2                 ~~1.1~~     a valve body (~~1~~),  
3                 ~~1.2~~     a mixer cartridge (~~3~~) located in the valve body (~~1~~), which  
4         ~~1.2.1 features~~ , **and** an operating shaft (~~7~~) **associated with the mixer**  
5         **cartridge**,  
6                 ~~1.3~~ an operating grip (~~8, 18~~) for operating the mixer cartridge (~~3~~),  
7         ~~which 1.3.1,~~ **wherein the operating grip** can be connected with the  
8         operating shaft (~~7~~) of the mixer cartridge (~~3~~),  
9                 ~~1.4~~ a locking device for **connecting** ~~securing~~ the operating grip (~~8,~~  
10         ~~18~~) ~~connected~~ with the operating shaft (~~7~~), **secure** against removal, ~~same~~  
11         ~~device 1.4.1 is~~ **said locking device being** formed such that ~~it~~ **the locking**  
12         **device** does not act between the operating grip (~~8, 18~~) and the operating  
13         shaft (~~7~~).

1           2(currently amended).       Sanitary fitting according to claim 1, wherein the  
2         locking device at least **comprises** ~~features~~ two interacting locking elements,  
3         ~~of which, the one is~~ **one of said locking elements being** provided on the  
4         operating grip (~~8, 18~~) and ~~the other is~~ **another of said locking elements**  
5         **being** provided on the valve body (~~1~~).

1           3(currently amended).       Sanitary fitting according to claim 2, wherein the  
2         locking element located on **the** valve body (~~1~~) forms a part of ~~a~~ **the** means  
3         **for** ~~of~~ fixing the mixer cartridge (~~3~~).

1           4(currently amended).       Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein  
2         the locking element located on **the** valve body (~~1~~) is a part of **the** valve body  
3         (~~1~~).

1           5(currently amended).       Sanitary fitting according to **claim 2** ~~one of claims~~  
2         ~~2 to 4~~, wherein the locking element located on valve body (~~1~~) is a part of **an**  
3         **the** outlet (~~11~~) of the sanitary fitting.

1 6(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~one of claims~~  
2 ~~2 to 5~~, wherein the locking element located on valve body (1) ~~is~~ **comprises** a  
3 sleeve (4,24).

1 7(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~one of claims~~  
2 ~~2 to 6~~, wherein the locking element located on valve body (1) ~~is~~ **comprises** a  
3 union nut.

1 8(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~one of claims~~  
2 ~~2 to 7~~, wherein the locking element located on the operating grip (8, 18) ~~is~~  
3 **comprises** a flange (10).

1 9(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~one of the~~  
2 ~~preceding claims~~, wherein a the surface facing away from the mixer cartridge  
3 (3) on the locking element of the operating grip (8, 18) is a part of **one of**  
4 ~~either~~ a cylindrical surface **and** ~~or~~ a spherical surface.

1 10(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein  
2 the flange (10) is formed such that **the flange** # covers a the passage  
3 opening for the operating shaft (7) ~~preferably in all possible positions of the~~  
4 ~~mixer cartridge (3).~~

1 11(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2 ~~one of claims~~  
2 ~~2 to 10~~, wherein **further comprising** a seal ~~is~~ located between the two  
3 locking elements of the locking device.

1 12(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 11, wherein **the**  
2 a seal is **fitted on a side of one of the locking elements** ~~located on the~~  
3 ~~side of locking element with fitting.~~

1 13(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~,  
2 wherein the seal **comprises** ~~features~~ a section with a sliding surface finish.

1 14(currently amended). Sanitary fitting according to claim 1 ~~one of the~~  
2 ~~preceding claims~~, wherein the fixing means of the operating grip ~~(8, 18)~~ on  
3 the operating shaft ~~(7)~~ ~~in the circumferential direction is provided between~~  
4 ~~these two parts~~ **is arranged on a circumference around the operating**  
5 **grip and the operating shaft.**

1 15(new). Sanitary fitting according to claim 3, wherein the locking  
2 element located on the valve body is a part of the valve body.

1 16(new). Sanitary fitting according to claim 2, wherein the locking  
2 element located on valve body is a part of an outlet of the sanitary fitting and  
3 a part of one of the valve body and a means for fixing the mixer cartridge.

1 17(new). Sanitary fitting according to claim 10, wherein the flange covers  
2 the passage opening for the operating shaft in all possible positions of the  
3 mixer cartridge.